

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending.

Claims 3, 5-8, 12-16, 19, 21, 23-27, and 31-32 have been amended to correct dependent claim format.

Claims 28-35 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Response to Restriction/Election of Species Requirement

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 26, 2008, Applicants elect **Group I, claims 1-27** for examination. This election is made without traverse.

In response to the Election of Species Requirement, dated November 26, 2008, Applicants elect for Group (i) a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. Applicants elect for Group (ii), diclofenac. Furthermore, Applicants elect for Group (iii) the compound of Formula (1) wherein Y-CO- is hyaluronic acid, R¹ is a linear hydrocarbon group having 2 carbon atoms which may have a substituent, R² is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug residue represented by Formula (2) and n is an integer of from 1 to 3. Applicants respectfully submit that a specific value for "n" cannot be selected from "an integer from 1 to 3," because the degree of substitution of the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug per repeating disaccharide unit of hyaluronic acid is from 5 to 50 mol %. In Formula (2), Applicants elect wherein the compound is diclofenac wherein R³, R⁴ and R⁵ each represents a hydrogen atom and X represents a chlorine atom.


The claims readable on the elected species are claims 1-27.

Applicant submits that if any of the elected claims is found to be allowable, claims dependent therefrom should similarly be considered allowable in the same application.

Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application directed to non-elected claims 28-35.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan J. Mack
Registration No. 30,951

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON DC SUGHRUE/265550

65565

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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